

# Noxious and Invasive Weed Update

## Plant Protection and Weed Control

*August 1, 2007*

### Special points of interest:

- KDA Biocontrol Efforts
- Kansas Regulated Weeds
- Black Swallowwort
- Aquatic Fern—Giant Salvinia

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## Biological Control Releases for 2007

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) continues to implement and recommend an integrated approach to noxious weed control. Integrated weed management combines all facets of weed control: chemical, biological, mechanical, and cultural control tactics.

In an effort to expand noxious weed biological control in Kansas, KDA in cooperation with USDA-APHIS, released several thousand leafy spurge flea beetles during the summer of 2007. The release was made at the Waterville sewage lagoon in north-central Kansas. KDA considers this population of

leafy spurge to be important due to its proximity to the Little Blue River and Tuttle Creek Lake.

Furthermore, KDA along with Kansas State University, made several releases of bindweed gall mites across the state in 2006 and will again in 2007. Research has shown that severe bindweed gall mite infestations will significantly reduce seed production and competitiveness of field bindweed.

In 2006, the releases were made in 8 different Kansas counties. It is

our expectation that once established, the initial infestation will be a source to spread the gall mites across each respective county. Success of the initial release may not be known for several years, but we expect good results.

-jvogel



Leafy spurge infestation at Waterville's water treatment facility. Photo by jvogel.

## Kansas' Current List of Regulated Weeds

Many people may already be familiar with Kansas' noxious weed list. It includes: field bindweed, musk thistle, sericea lespedeza, johnsongrass, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, burragweed, hoary cress, Russian knapweed, quackgrass, pignut, and kudzu. Also included are two county option weeds: multi-flora rose and bull thistle.

The Kansas noxious weed law requires landowners, both public and private to control the spread and to eradicate all weeds declared noxious. It is also unlawful to sell plants, fertilizers, and feed infested with noxious weed seeds or reproductive material. Much of the enforcement and funding with the noxious weed law

resides with each individual county. Furthermore, KDA provides a consulting and advisory role to the counties.

In addition to the noxious weed list, Kansas also quarantines several plant species. The authority for KDA to quarantine a pest lies within

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## Quarantine

the Plant Pest and Commodities Certification Act. This law gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to quarantine, or stop the sale and movement of pest to prevent or retard the spread of a pest into the state. A quarantine can be temporary, only lasting 90 days, or permanent, lasting until the Secretary rescinds the quarantine.

Currently, the state has five permanent weed quarantines which include: serotated tussock, Grecian fox-

glove, purple loosestrife, tamarisk, and all federal noxious weeds. The federal noxious weed quarantine is comprised of 72 total species, containing 19 aquatic weed species. Some weeds highlighted on the list include: Japanese bloodgrass, tropical soda apple, Chinese water spinach, giant salvinia, and hydrilla.

If anyone is aware that any quarantined plants are being sold, please notify KDA immediately at (785) 862-2180. For further in-



Tamarisk in Bloom. Photo by Bill Scott, KDA

formation, please visit [www.ksda.gov](http://www.ksda.gov).

-jvogel



Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

## Invasive Weed—Black Swallowwort

Black swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) is a perennial vine that is a problematic weed along the east coast. It is a native of Europe and was probably introduced to the US in the early 1900s. An invasive species, it will crowd out other native vegetation and is difficult to control once established.

Part of the Milkweed family, black swallowwort resembles honeyvine milkweed with some exceptions. Vines reach 6 ft in length and waxy, heart shaped leaves are placed opposite of each other. Flowers have five petals

and are purplish-brown in color. The fruit are long, green, slender pods that turn dark when mature. They have round flat seeds, similar to common milkweed.

In Kansas black swallowwort has been reported in Montgomery County and more recently on the Konza prairie in Riley County. Unofficial reports have placed it at the Tallgrass Prairie Reserve in Chase County and in Geary County.

Controlling black swallowwort can be difficult. Cutting plant crowns can provide adequate control, but may prove difficult be-

cause the entire crown must be removed to prevent re-sprouting. Remedy (triclopyr) with repeat applications will provide sufficient control. Grazing and burning are not effective.

If you have further questions or see this plant, please notify the KDA at (785) 862-2180.

-Jvogel



Black Swallowwort in Montgomery County. Photo by Bill Scott



### *Plant Protection and Weed Control*

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Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

#### **Our mission is to:**

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

## **Aquatic Weed Corner—Giant Salvinia**

In 2004, The Kansas Department of Agriculture quarantined all Federal noxious weeds, which prevented the sale and transport of all federal noxious weeds. Included in the list was 14 aquatic weed species. Part of the list was four species of giant salvinia (*Salvinia auriculata*, *Salvinia biloba*, *Salvinia herzogii*, and *Salvinia molesta*).

It is characterized by short white hairs on the upper leaf surface and horizontal stems just below the water surface. Being an floating aquatic fern,

giant salvinia doesn't reproduce with seeds, but with spores similar to other fern species. Even though, giant salvinia reproduces most effectively by vegetative means.

Giant salvinia's northern most range may extend into the southern counties of Kansas but so far, it is not known to survive the Kansas' winters. Even though, Power plant cooling lakes may provide a warm enough habitat for giant salvinia to survive the winter.

To prevent the spread of aquatic plants, please

clean boats and equipment prior to transport. In addition please dispose of aquatic plants properly and not in rivers wetlands, or lakes.

-jvogel



Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)